

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

STATE OF WASHINGTON, et al.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. CV 9213
Subproceeding No. 05-3

ORDER ON MOTIONS FOR
SUMMARY JUDGMENT

This subproceeding was initiated as a Request for Determination (“Request”) filed by the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe (“Upper Skagit”), asking the Court to determine that certain areas known as Saratoga Passage and Skagit Bay, on the eastern side of Whidbey Island, are not within the usual and accustomed fishing area (“U & A”) of the Suquamish Indian Tribe (“Suquamish”) as it was defined in *U.S. v. Washington*, 459 F. Supp. 1020 (1978). A Cross-Request for Determination was filed, with leave of Court, by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community (“Swinomish”), essentially joining in the Request of the Upper Skagit.¹ The Suquamish filed an Answer opposing both Requests. The matter is now before the Court for consideration of summary judgment motions filed by the three parties. Oral

¹The Upper Skagit originally defined the case area as Saratoga Passage, from the Greenbank Line north to the Snatelum Point Line, and Skagit Bay. The Swinomish cross-request defines the case area for their purposes as Catch Reporting Area 24C. The case area, then, encompasses that portion of Saratoga Passage within Catch Reporting Area 24C, plus Skagit Bay (Catch Reporting Area 24A). For convenience, this case area will simply be referred to interchangeably as Saratoga Passage and Skagit Bay, or as the “subproceeding area.”

argument was heard on December 12, 2006, and the arguments and memoranda of the parties, and other Tribes who appeared as interested parties, have been fully considered. As the three motions argue the same points and issues, they shall be discussed together.

BACKGROUND

In 1975, in the language that lies at the heart of this dispute, U.S. District Court Judge George Boldt described the U & A of the Suquamish as

the marine waters of Puget Sound from the northern tip of Vashon Island to the Fraser River including Haro and Rosario Straits, the streams draining into the western side of this portion of Puget Sound and also Hood Canal.

Finding of Fact # 5 (“FF 5”), *U.S. v. Washington*, 459 F. Supp. 1020, 1049 (1978). The Upper Skagit and Swinomish assert in their separate Requests for Determination that this language is ambiguous as to certain waters lying on the eastern side of Whidbey Island, known as Saratoga Passage and Skagit Bay. They ask for a determination that the Suquamish U & A does not include these areas. The Suquamish, in answering the Request, contend that this language is not ambiguous, and that it unambiguously includes the contested areas.

The Court has ruled previously that there is sufficient ambiguity surrounding Judge Boldt’s use of the term “Puget Sound” in describing the Suquamish U & A to require clarification, thus allowing this subproceeding to go forward. Dkt. # 43, pp 2-3; Dkt. # 71, n. 2. In a later Order, the Court set out a two-step procedure for reaching an understanding of Judge Boldt’s intent. Referring to prior decisions of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals known as *Muckleshoot I* (*Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, et al, v. Lummi Indian Tribe*, 141 F. 3d 1355 (9th Cir. 1998)), *Muckleshoot II* (*Muckleshoot Indian Tribe v. Lummi Indian Nation*, 234 F. 3d 1099 (9th Cir. 2000)), and *Muckleshoot III* (*Puyallup Indian Tribe, et al., v. Muckleshoot Indian Tribe*, 235 F. 3d 429 (9th Cir. 2000)), the Court stated,

These rulings inform this Court’s decision on the motion to compel, as they define the scope of discovery in this matter. The burden in this subproceeding is on the requesting parties—the Upper Skagit and the Swinomish Tribal Community—to offer evidence that FF 5 is ambiguous, or that Judge Boldt “intended something other than its apparent meaning.” *Id.* [citing to *Muckleshoot I*, 141 F. 3d at 1359.] Since the apparent meaning of the phrase “the marine waters of Puget Sound from

the northern tip of Vashon Island to the Fraser River including Haro and Rosario Straits. . . .” is in dispute here, it must be determined by the Court. **The relevant evidence on this issue is evidence which indicates the contemporary understanding of the extent of “the marine waters of Puget Sound. . .”, which will “shed light on the understanding that Judge Boldt had of the geography at the time.”** *Muckleshoot I*, 141 F. 3d at 1360; *Muckleshoot II*, 234 F. 3d at 1100. This may be provided by supplementation of the record, at the appropriate time, with declarations of geography experts. *Id.* Such evidence may be offered by the parties to “enable the district court to interpret the decree in specific geographic terms.” *Muckleshoot I*, 141 F. 3d at 1360.

Should the evidence show that the common understanding of the term “Puget Sound” in 1974 included Saratoga Passage and Skagit Bay, the Upper Skagit or Swinomish Tribe must produce evidence that suggests that Judge Boldt intended something other than this apparent meaning when he wrote FF 5. *Muckleshoot I*, 141 F. 3d at 1359. **The evidence that is relevant to Judge Boldt’s intent comprises “the entire record before the issuing court and the findings of fact [which] may be referenced in determining what was decided.”** *Muckleshoot I*, 141 F. 3d at 1359.

Dkt. # 71 (emphasis added).

ANALYSIS

A. Ambiguity and Apparent Meaning

The first step, as set forth above, is to determine whether Judge Boldt’s language is actually ambiguous. The Skagit and Swinomish assert that it is; the Suquamish contend that it is not. The Skagit and Swinomish counter that Suquamish should be estopped from asserting unambiguity, because they have in the past, in other subproceedings, argued that the term **is** ambiguous.

As the Court has stated previously, it is not the meaning of “Puget Sound” that is at issue here, but rather its use by Judge Boldt in describing that portion of Puget Sound that constitutes the Suquamish U & A. That is, the term must be viewed in context: “the marine waters of Puget Sound from the tip of Vashon Island to the mouth of the Fraser River.”

Black’s Dictionary defines “ambiguity” as:

Doubtfulness; doubleness of meaning. Duplicity, indistinctness, or uncertainty of meaning of an expression used in a written instrument. Want of clearness or definiteness; difficult to comprehend or distinguish; of doubtful import.

....

Ambiguity of language is to be distinguished from unintelligibility and inaccuracy, for words cannot be said to be ambiguous unless their signification seems doubtful and uncertain to persons of competent skill and knowledge to understand them. . . .

1 It is *latent* where the language employed is clear and intelligible and suggests but
2 a single meaning, but some extrinsic fact or extraneous evidence creates a necessity
3 for interpretation or a choice among two or more possible meanings, as where a
4 description apparently plain and unambiguous is shown to fit different pieces of
5 property. A *patent* ambiguity is that which appears on the face of the instrument,
6 and arises from the defective, obscure, or insensible language used.

7 *Black's Law Dictionary*, 5th ed., abridged, p. 41.

8 The Upper Skagit and Swinomish assert that the Court has already determined that Judge Boldt's
9 language in describing the Suquamish U & A is ambiguous, and that such determination is the law of the
10 case. However, the Court's previous ruling was not that the language was ambiguous, but rather that
11 there was sufficient ambiguity "surrounding" Judge Boldt's language to justify clarification. While a
12 latent ambiguity may have arisen later from various judges' and parties' imprecise use or differing
13 understanding of the term "Puget Sound", it is the possible ambiguity in Judge Boldt's use of the term in
14 1975 that is at issue here.

15 In support of their contention that the language is not ambiguous, the Suquamish point to various
16 places in the record where "Puget Sound" was actually defined by the Court. Specifically, Judge Boldt
17 expressly adopted the definition of Puget Sound set forth in the "Joint Statement Regarding the Biology,
18 Status, Management, and Harvest of the Salmon and Steelhead Resources of the Puget Sound and
19 Olympic Peninsula Drainage Area of Western Washington", Exhibit JX-2a from the original *U.S. v.*
20 *Washington* proceedings. That definition states: "As used in this report (except where the context
21 clearly indicates otherwise) the term 'Puget Sound' includes the Strait of Juan de Fuca and **all saltwater**
22 **areas inland therefrom**, . . . " Ex. JX-2a, p. i. (emphasis added). Judge Boldt expressly adopted this
23 definition in his Findings of Fact in *Washington I*. Referring to the facts set forth in the report, he stated,
24 "The contents of said report are hereby incorporated by reference as Findings of Fact herein."
25 *Washington I*, 384 F. Supp. 312, 338 (W.D. Wash. 1974). This became Finding of Fact 164. *Id.* The
26 contents of the report necessarily include the definitions.

27 The Skagit and Swinomish attempt to minimize the significance of this report by characterizing it
28 as simply a fisheries management tool. However, this case arose out of fisheries management in
Washington State, and tribal participation therein. Judge Boldt's understanding and use of the term

1 “Puget Sound” would necessarily have been shaped by the fisheries reports and regulations that were
 2 under discussion at that time. It was therefore reasonable for the Court to consider and adopt the
 3 terminology used in fisheries management in discussing the case area.

4 This was not Judge Boldt’s only reference to Puget Sound as a broad area encompassing all the
 5 saltwater areas inward from the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This same broad definition was
 6 used on defining the case area in Conclusion of Law # 7:

7 This case is limited to the claimed treaty-secured off-reservation fishing rights of the
 8 Plaintiff tribes as they apply to areas of the Western District of Washington within the
 9 watershed of Puget Sound and the Olympic Peninsula north of Grays Harbor, and in the
 10 adjacent offshore waters which are within the jurisdiction of the State of Washington.

11 *U.S. v. Washington*, 384 F. Supp. at 400. This language is taken verbatim from ¶ 5 of the Final Pretrial
 12 Order (“PTO”), Dkt. # 353, p. 5. This PTO was signed by all the parties to the case at that time,
 13 including the Upper Skagit, and approved by Judge Boldt

14 The parties’ and the Court’s common understanding of the extent of Puget Sound is indicated
 15 once again later in the PTO:

16 Each of the Plaintiff tribes has usual and accustomed fishing places within the area described
 17 in paragraph 5 *supra*, including, among others, the waters of Puget Sound, Strait of Juan de
 18 Fuca, off-shore marine waters, the Nisqually River, the Puyallup River and Commencement
 19 Bay, the White River, the Green-Duwamish River, Lake Washington, Cedar River,
 20 Stillaguamish River, Sauk River, Skagit River, the Nooksack River, the waters of Hood
 21 Canal and the rivers flowing into said Canal, the Hoko River, the Quilayute River and its
 22 tributaries, and the Hoh River.

23 Final Pretrial Order ¶¶7-14, Dkt. # 353, p. 122. In designating only the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Hood
 24 Canal as separate areas, this language necessarily subsumes the other bays and inlets, including the areas
 25 at issue here, into Puget Sound, as the term was used in this case.²

26 The Court notes that the very maps used by the parties, admitted as exhibits by the Court on April

27 ²The Court has ruled previously that this subproceeding will not address the western boundary of
 28 the Suquamish U & A, and therefore quotes these various definitions without making any finding as to
 whether the Strait of Juan de Fuca is included within “Puget Sound” as that term was used by Judge
 Boldt in the Suquamish U & A. However, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled previously, with
 respect to the Lummi U & A, that “[i]t is clear that Judge Boldt viewed Puget Sound and the Strait of
 Juan de Fuca as two distinct regions, with the Strait lying to the west of the Sound.” *U.S. v. Lummi
 Indian Tribe*, 235 F. 3d 443, 451-52 (9th Cir. 2000).

1 10, 1975 in the herring fisheries proceedings, also indicate a very broad region as Puget Sound. The
2 maps themselves are National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”) nautical maps with
3 separate designations for each bay and inlet. Exhibit JX-3, JX-4. However, written by the parties in
4 large letters on each map are the designations “Central and Southern Puget Sound” (Exhibit JX-3) and
5 “Northern Puget Sound” (Exhibit JX-4). Thus, the map labeled by NOAA as “Strait of Georgia and
6 Strait of Juan de Fuca” is designated by the parties as Northern Puget Sound. Exhibit JX-4. Similarly,
7 the map labeled by NOAA as depicting “Admiralty Inlet and Puget Sound” is designated by the parties as
8 Central and Southern Puget Sound. These handwritten designations on these maps are specific to this
9 case, and indicate that the terms used and understood by the parties and the Court in the April, 1975
10 proceedings were Southern, Central, and Northern Puget Sound, rather than the NOAA designation of
11 separate bays and inlets. The handwritten labels on these maps are thus highly significant to an
12 understanding of Judge Bolt’s use of the term “Puget Sound” during the 1975 proceedings.

13 These definitions, maps, and references support the conclusion that in 1975 the parties and the
14 Court had a common understanding of Puget Sound as the case area, encompassing all the saltwater
15 areas inward from the mouth of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Indeed, Judge Boldt so stated in September
16 1975, five months after the ruling at issue here, in addressing the coho salmon fishery:

17 As used in this Order the term “Puget Sound”, when referring to the waters of origin
18 or the place of salmon harvest, includes all the marine waters of Washington inland
19 from the mouth of the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Tatoosh Island) together with the freshwater
20 streams and lakes draining into such marine waters.

21 Order dated September 13, 1975, Dkt. # 1381. The Skagit and Swinomish assert that the language in
22 this Order may not be considered, because the Court has limited the evidence under consideration in this
23 subproceeding to that which was before the Court in April of 1975. However, this cited Order is not
24 “evidence” within the meaning of that limiting rule, and it may therefore be considered as yet another
25 indication of Judge Boldt’s understanding, in 1975, of the extent of Puget Sound for the purposes of this
26 case. As noted, in every instance in 1975 where Judge Boldt did state a definition for Puget Sound, it is a
27 broad one which necessarily includes both Saratoga Passage and Skagit Bay.

28 Indeed, that conclusion is the only logical one, in light of Judge Boldt’s description, in the very

1 paragraph following the Suquamish U & A description, of the U & A of the Swinomish:

2 The usual and accustomed fishing places of the Swinomish Tribal Community include
3 the Skagit River and its tributaries, the Samish River and its tributaries and the marine
4 areas of northern Puget Sound from the Fraser River south to and including Whidbey,
Camano, Fidalgo, Guemes, Samish, Cypress, and the San Juan Islands, and including
Bellingham Bay and Hale Passage adjacent to Lummi Island.

5 Finding of Fact # 6, *U. S. v. Washington*, 459 F. Supp. at 1049. This description, issued the same day
6 and in the same Order as the Suquamish U & A, necessarily includes Skagit Bay and Saratoga Passage as
7 within the “marine waters of northern Puget Sound”, and within the U & A of the Swinomish.

8 Earlier, the Court invited the parties, pursuant to direction given in *Muckleshoot I*, to supplement
9 the record, if appropriate, with declarations of geography experts in order to aid the Court in interpreting
10 the language of the Suquamish U & A in specific geographic terms. Dkt. # 71, citing *Muckleshoot I*, 141
11 F. 3d at 1360. In light of the definitions in the record itself, and the maps known to be used by the Court
12 as cited above, the Court now deems it unnecessary and inappropriate to turn to extrinsic evidence in
13 order to fathom Judge Boldt’s meaning. This is particularly so in view of the lack of any evidence that
14 Judge Boldt consulted a geography expert for definitions of the geographical terms he used; instead it
15 appears that the terms were defined by the fisheries consultants.

16 Even if the Court were to consider the extrinsic evidence offered, and could find it relevant to
17 Judge Boldt’s understanding, it would find that the experts’ opinions here are not based upon sufficient
18 facts and data, and do not adequately reflect the application of scientific methods to the facts of this case.
19 F.R.Evid. 702. The Upper Skagit and Swinomish experts Richard Hart and Theresa Trebon (both of
20 whom are historians, not geography experts) examined historical maps, journals, dictionaries, atlases, and
21 other sources. They both noted that the meaning of “Puget Sound” has changed over the years, from the
22 original naming by Captain George Vancouver of the area at the southernmost end of the waterway.
23 They both advanced the opinion that in 1975, as indicated on contemporary maps and charts, the term
24 was generally used to describe the waters from the southern end up to (but not including) Admiralty Inlet.
25 This opinion is clearly incompatible with Judge Boldt’s own language in describing the Suquamish and
26 Swinomish U & A’s, which viewed Puget Sound as extending all the way north to the mouth of the

Fraser River. The historians' opinions must therefore be disregarded as useless in shedding light on Judge Boldt's understanding of the extent of Puget Sound.

Moreover, it appears that neither historian consulted the official United States Geological Survey ("USGS") definition of Puget Sound, which would have been a highly reliable source to consult, and more precise than maps.³ The Suquamish earlier asked the Court to take judicial notice of this official USGS definition of Puget Sound:

Bay, with numerous channels and branches, [which] extends 144 km S from the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Olympia; the N boundary is formed, at its main entrance, by a line between Point Wilson on the Olympic Peninsula and Partridge on Whidbey Island; at a second entrance, by a line between West Point on Whidbey Island, Deception Island, and Rosario Head on Fidalgo Island; at a third entrance, the S end of Swinomish Channel between Fidalgo Island and McGlinn Island.

U.S. Department of the Interior, *USGS Geographic Names Information System*, quoted at Dkt. # 6, p.

12. This "official" USGS definition of Puget Sound includes Saratoga Passage and Skagit Bay, which lie just south of the second- and third-named entrances. However, it appears that this definition was adopted in 1979, and no copy of the earlier version, adopted in 1961, has been presented to the Court. Therefore, the Court cites this definition here only as a basis for disregarding the experts' opinions as insufficiently grounded in facts and data.

Similarly, it appears that neither historian consulted the Washington Administrative Code, which in 1975 codified many of the tribal fishing regulations, area by area, and could have shed some meaningful light on the question. Washington Administrative Code ("WAC") 220-47-001 *et seq.* Indeed, the Exhibit JX-2a definition, adopted by Judge Boldt, mirrored the definition stated in these regulations:

The term "Puget Sound" shall be construed to include all the waters of Puget Sound outside the mouth of any river or stream including the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Georgia Strait, and all bays and inlets thereof.

WAC 220-16-210 (adopted 1969). Copies of certain regulations, namely WAC 220-47-206 through

³ In viewing maps and charts presented in this subproceeding, the Court finds maps to be an imprecise indicator of the boundaries of water areas. When bays and inlets are labeled on the map, it cannot be determined whether they are designated as parts of a greater whole (Puget Sound), or as separate areas which are not part of the whole. A written description with set boundaries is more informative on the question of the boundaries of a body of water.

1 220-47-268, defining the boundaries of various Puget Sound fishing areas, were provided to the Court by
2 the Upper Skagit, in support of their motion. Declaration of David Hawkins, Dkt. # 144 Exhibit C, pp.
3 14-19. The definition of Puget Sound applicable to these regulations, quoted above, was not provided.
4 However, the parties agreed with the Court at oral argument that the Court may take judicial notice of
5 the WACs. Here, the Court does so only for the purpose of pointing out deficiencies in the facts and
6 resources researched by the two experts.

7 The Suquamish also presented the declaration of an expert, geographer Dr. Jon Kimerling. The
8 Skagit in their reply asked the Court to strike Dr. Kimerling's opinion because he was identified only as a
9 rebuttal witness, not in the original designation of experts. The Suquamish did not file a surreply to
10 oppose the motion to strike. The Court therefore grants the motion to strike those portions of Dr.
11 Kimerling's report which offer direct, as opposed to rebuttal, testimony.

12 Based on the discussion above, the Court finds that Judge Boldt demonstrated his understanding
13 of the extent of Puget Sound by defining it in the record, and it is not appropriate to resort to extrinsic
14 evidence to determine his meaning. As Judge Boldt defined Puget Sound as the case area, it includes the
15 waters of of Saratoga Passage and Skagit Bay.

16 **B. Judge Boldt's Intent**

17 The determination that Judge Boldt in 1975 defined the term "Puget Sound" broadly, to include
18 the disputed area here, does not end the inquiry. Under the rules developed by the Ninth Circuit, the
19 Court must look to the actual evidence that was before Judge Boldt to determine if it "suggests that
20 Judge Boldt intended something other than this apparent meaning when he wrote FF 5." *Muckleshoot I*,
21 141 F. 3d at 1359. In this inquiry, the burden is on the Upper Skagit and the Swinomish to demonstrate
22 that there was no evidence before Judge Boldt that the Suquamish fished on the east side of Whidbey
23 Island, or traveled through there on their way up to the San Juans and the Fraser River area.

24 Both this Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals have noted on several occasions that
25 Judge Boldt relied heavily on the reports and testimony of anthropologist Dr. Barbara Lane in
26 determining the U & A's of various tribes. *Muckleshoot I*, 141 F. 3d at 1359 (Dr. Lane's report was

1 cited and heavily relied upon by Judge Boldt in his decision); *Muckleshoot III*, 235 F. 3d at 437 (Judge
2 Boldt specifically noted that Dr. Lane's testimony prevails over that of expert Dr. Riley in the event of a
3 conflict).

4 Dr. Lane's report on the Suquamish is titled "Identity, Treaty Status and Fisheries of the
5 Suquamish Tribe of the Fort Madison Reservation" ("Report"). It was admitted as an exhibit on April 9,
6 1975. Dr. Lane testified in that day's proceedings, and the transcript of her testimony appears in the
7 record at Docket # 7268 ("Transcript"). In both her report and her testimony, Dr. Lane characterized the
8 Suquamish as a people who traveled widely by canoe, ranging as far north as the mouth of the Fraser
9 River. She also stated that "[i]t was normal for all the Indians in western Washington to travel
10 extensively either harvesting resources or visiting in-laws, . . . visiting for social occasions such as
11 potlatches, weddings, feasts . . . or inter-community ceremonials or celebrations." Transcript, p. 48.

12 In the section of her report devoted to fisheries, Dr. Lane stated that the Suquamish fished for fall
13 and winter salmon at the mouths of the Duwamish and Snohomish Rivers, and in the "adjacent marine
14 areas." Report, p. 15. In the spring and summer, they traveled by canoe as far north as Fort Langley on
15 the Fraser River. *Id.* Dr. Lane stated,

16 In my opinion, the evidence that the Suquamish travelled [sic] to the Fraser river [sic]
17 in pre-treaty times documents their capability to travel widely over the marine waters
18 in what are now known as the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Haro and Rosario Straits.
According to oral tradition, the Suquamish regularly travelled through the San Juan
Islands and to the Fraser river.

19 The Fort Langley journal documents that the Suquamish did travel to the Fraser river.
20 It is my opinion that the Suquamish undoubtedly would have fished the marine waters
21 along the way as they travelled. It is likely that one of the reasons for travel was to
harvest fish. The Suquamish travelled to Whidbey Island to fish and undoubtedly used
other marine areas as well.

22 Report, p. 16. Dr. Lane also mentioned seasonal camps for smoke-curing fish on Bainbridge Island. *Id.*

23 The Report then listed the following places where the Suquamish traditionally took fish (salmon,
24 herring, steelhead, halibut, and shellfish), by trolling, spearing, nets, or traps: Apple Cove Point, Hood
25 Canal, Dye's Inlet, Liberty Bay, the head of Sinclair Inlet, Skunk Bay, Union River and Curley Creek,
26 Blake Island, Jefferson Head, Point to Point, Rich's Passage, Orchard Point, Indianola, Ross Point,

1 Miller's Bay, Agate Passage, and the area between Chico and Erland's Point. Report, p. 19-20. This list
2 was accompanied in the Report by a map indicating the above-named fishing places, described as being
3 within Suquamish territory. Report, p. 20. 22. In her testimony, Dr. Lane clarified that the places
4 marked on this map, all on the western side of Puget Sound, were sites within Suquamish territory, and
5 did not indicate other areas where they may have traveled to fish. Transcript, p. 57.

6 At the April 9, 1975 hearing, Dr. Lane was questioned at length about the travels of the
7 Suquamish. She affirmatively stated that they did travel through the San Juan Islands to the Fraser River.
8 Transcript, p. 49. When questioned specifically about fishing in the area of the San Juan Islands, Birch
9 Bay, and up to the Fraser River, she stated that she could not specifically cite to any documentation
10 regarding Suquamish fishing for herring there, but that

11 it's entirely likely that they fished for whatever was available as they were traveling
12 through those waters and that they visited those waters regularly as a usual and
accustomed matter in order to fish and to do other things.

13 Transcript, p. 52.

14 Upon Dr. Lane's re-cross examination, the discussion turned to a map that accompanied the
15 Suquamish April 3, 1975 proposed fishing regulations. A copy of this map appears as an attachment to
16 the Declaration of James Janetta, Dkt. # 146, p. 74. The map divides greater Puget Sound into numbered
17 areas, clearly separated by lines drawn on the map. Area 1 includes the San Juan Islands, south about
18 halfway down Whidbey Island, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Area 2 lies entirely above the San Juan
19 Islands, extending to the Canadian border. Area 3 encompasses Samish Bay and Bellingham Bay. Area 4
20 includes the very south-eastern end of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, plus Admiralty Inlet, lower Puget
21 Sound, Saratoga Passage, and Skagit Bay. *Id.* Referring to this map, attorney Paul Solomon for the
22 Department of Game questioned Dr. Lane. The following colloquy occurred:

23 Q. And looking at their map attached, here, what has been described as Area Number 2,
24 is this the area, roughly speaking, that Mr. Stay has asked you about, the Strait of Juan de
Fuca, Haro Strait, and whatnot?

25 A. I think he has asked me about what is labeled 1 and 2 on that map.

26 Q. Both areas 1 and 2. That's what your comments pertain to?

1 A. Well, I am speaking about the San Juan Island area, what is marked Number 1 there,
2 and then 2.

3

4 Q. Now, your report on the Suquamish notes that they traveled from their regular area
5 up north as far as the Fraser River, which would cover areas 1 and 2 on this.

6 A. Part of the Area 1

7 Q. Part of Area 1, and 2.

8 Transcript, pp. 56-57.

9 Nowhere in this discussion, or in Dr. Lane's entire testimony, was the area designated as Area 4
10 on the map mentioned. Nor were Skagit Bay and Saratoga Passage ever mentioned in Dr. Lane's
11 testimony regarding the Suquamish travels and fishing, or in her Report. While she did testify that the
12 Suquamish traveled up to the Fraser River, her reference to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Haro and Rosario
13 Strait places their route on the west side of Whidbey Island, from the Port Madison area and up through
14 the San Juan Islands. Her one statement in her report that the Suquamish traveled "to" Whidbey Island is
15 insufficient to support a finding that they fished or traveled in the waters on the eastern side of Whidbey
16 Island.

17 This absence of evidence regarding Squamish fishing or travel through Saratoga Passage and
18 Skagit Bay leads the Court to conclude that the Upper Skagit and Swinomish have met their burden of
19 demonstrating that Judge Boldt did not intend to include these areas in the Suquamish U & A. The
20 Suquamish must now point to some evidence in the record that demonstrates that this conclusion is
21 incorrect.

22 In support of their assertion that their U & A includes waters on the east side of Whidbey Island,
23 the Suquamish point to Dr. Lane's finding that the treaty-time Suquamish were competent mariners who
24 traveled widely. They assert that those travels would necessarily have included waters east of Whidbey
25 Island. However, as noted above, Dr. Lane testified that it was "normal" for "all the Indians in Western
26 Washington to travel extensively. . ." Transcript, p. 48. Thus such travel was not unique to the
27 Suquamish, and no conclusion with respect to the subproceeding area can be drawn from the mere
28 statement that they traveled widely. Dr. Lane's actual testimony, as shown above, addressed only travel

1 from the Suquamish territory up across the Strait of Juan de Fuca and through Haro and Rosario Straits,
2 and the San Juan Islands. It would be pure speculation to conclude that those travels must also have
3 included the east side of Whidbey Island, as there is absolutely no evidence in the record that they did so.

4 Next, the Suquamish point to the fact that they were found to fish at the mouth of the Snohomish
5 River, which is on the eastern side of Whidbey Island, but well south of the area at issue. They assert that
6 this fishing on the east side of Whidbey Island means that they could have well headed north into
7 Saratoga Passage in their travels. However, Suquamish fishing in this area was described by Dr. Lane as
8 fall and winter fishing at the mouth of a river, presumably to take the abundant migrating salmon. This
9 fall and winter fishery was described by Dr. Lane as separate and distinct from the spring and summer
10 travels up to the Fraser River. Thus, this reference to fishing at the mouth of the Snohomish River in the
11 fall and winter cannot be deemed evidence that the Suquamish also traveled through that area on their
12 way north to the Fraser River in the spring and summer. There was no mention in Dr. Lane's Report of
13 Suquamish fishing anywhere north of the Snohomish River in their fall and winter fishery.

14 Finally, the Suquamish point to the close relations between their people and the Skagit and
15 Snohomish people, who had fishing camps on Whidbey and Camano Islands. They ask that the Court
16 assume that the close relations between the tribes meant that the Suquamish must necessarily have
17 camped and fished there as well. However, any connection between the Snohomish and Skagit camps on
18 Whidbey and Camano Islands, and the Suquamish fishing in these areas, would again be purely
19 speculative. There is nothing in Dr. Lane's report that places Suquamish camps in these areas, or
20 documents Suquamish fishing there.

21 Judge Boldt found Dr. Lane's testimony to be authoritative and reliable in the original *U.S. v.*
22 *Washington*, 384 F. Supp. at 350. His description of the Suquamish U & A tracks nearly verbatim the
23 language in Dr. Lane's report, that the Suquamish had the "capability to travel widely over the marine
24 waters in what are now known as the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Haro and Rosario Straits." Report, p.
25 16. Further, she reported, they "regularly travelled [sic] through the San Juan Islands and to the Fraser
26 River." *Id.* In naming these specific areas in describing the Suquamish U & A, Judge Boldt

1 demonstrated his intent to conform the Suquamish U & A to those areas documented by Dr. Lane. As
2 noted by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, where Judge Boldt has cited the specific, rather than the
3 general, evidence presented by Dr. Lane, that evidence determines the boundaries of a tribe's U & A.
4 *U.S. v. Lummi Indian Tribe*, 235 F. 3d at 451.

5 For these reasons, the Court concludes that Judge Boldt did not intend to include Saratoga
6 Passage or Skagit Bay within the U & A of the Suquamish. Indeed, it appears from the record that this is
7 how the Suquamish themselves interpreted their U & A. The Suquamish understanding, in 1975, that
8 their U & A excluded waters on the eastern side of Whidbey Island is indicated in the fishing regulations
9 they issued following the Court's ruling on their U & A. These regulations appear in the record in the
10 Declaration of David Hawkins, Dkt. # 144, Exhibit C. These regulations set guidelines for fishing in
11 specified marine and freshwater fishing areas. No fishing was proposed in marine area 5, on the eastern
12 side of Whidbey Island, which at that time included the areas at issue in this subproceeding. *Id.* While
13 the Suquamish correctly argue that it would be improper to use these fishing regulations as evidence of
14 Judge Boldt's intent, it is not improper to use them as evidence of the Suquamish Tribe's understanding
15 of their own U & A at that time.

16 CONCLUSION

17 The Court has reviewed the evidence that was before Judge Boldt in the April 1975 proceeding
18 that led to the determination of the Suquamish U & A. That evidence, including maps, fisheries reports,
19 anthropological reports, and testimony, demonstrates that the Court and the parties had a common
20 understanding that the term "Puget Sound" generally described a continuous body of saltwater in western
21 Washington, including all the bays and inlets, and specifically including Skagit Bay and Saratoga Passage.
22 On some occasions, areas such as the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Hood Canal were described separately.
23 On other occasions, Puget Sound was treated as divided into regions, namely Southern, Central, and
24 Northern Puget Sound. Regardless of these differences, the term "Puget Sound" as used generally by
25 Judge Boldt included Saratoga Passage and Skagit Bay.

26 However, in describing the individual tribes' usual and accustomed fishing areas, Judge Boldt was

1 necessarily indicating only a portion of that broader Puget Sound, even when, as here, he used the term
2 “Puget Sound” without qualification. Thus, for example, in the description of the U & A of the
3 Muckleshoot Tribe, the Court has found that the term “saltwater of Puget Sound” refers only to that
4 portion of Puget Sound in Elliot Bay. *See, Muckleshoot III*, 235 F. 3d at 438. Similarly, it has been
5 judicially determined that the Lummi U & A, described in part as “the marine areas of Northern Puget
6 Sound from the Fraser River south to the present environs of Seattle” does not include the Strait of Juan
7 de Fuca or Hood Canal. *U.S. v. Lummi*, 235 F. 3d at 451-52.

8 Here, the Court finds that in describing the Suquamish U & A as the marine waters of Puget
9 Sound from Vashon Island up to the Fraser River, Judge Boldt could not have intended to include
10 Saratoga Passage or Skagit Bay. Judge Boldt relied heavily on the report and testimony of Dr. Barbara
11 Lane, and indeed in describing the Suquamish U & A he used terms and place names taken directly from
12 her report on the Suquamish fishing and travels. Dr. Lane reported and testified that the Suquamish
13 traveled by canoe from their territory (Port Madison) up through the San Juan Islands, and Haro and
14 Rosario Straits, as far as the Fraser River. Nothing in her testimony or her report indicated a Suquamish
15 presence in Saratoga Passage or Skagit Bay, neither as winter fishing grounds, nor as a route for travel
16 up to the San Juan Islands.

17 The Court thus finds that there are no factual issues in dispute, and that the requesting parties are
18 entitled to judgment as a matter of law on their claim that the Suquamish U & A does not include
19 Saratoga Passage or Skagit Bay. Accordingly, the motions for summary judgment by the Upper Skagit
20 and Swinomish are GRANTED, and the Suquamish motion for summary judgment is DENIED. As no
21 issues remain to be determined, the trial date of February 26 is now STRICKEN.

22 The Clerk shall enter judgment in favor of the Upper Skagit and Swinomish, and close the file.
23 Dated this 3rd day of January, 2007.

24 

25 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
26 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE